## IMPORTANT FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

Exciting News from the Republic of South Carolina.

Major Anderson Abandons Fort Moultrie and Spikes the Guns.

Most of the United States Troops Retire to Fort Sumpter, in the Harber.

IMMENSE STRENGTH OF THAT FORT.

Great Excitement in Charleston on the Subject.

The Convention in Secret Session.

THE STATE MILITIA ORDERED OUT.

Volunteers from Georgia and

Indignation of the South Carolina Commissioners in Washington.

SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE CABINET.

MAJOR ANDERSON DISOBEYS HIS ORDERS.

we were actually at war with the independent State of

ands Fort Moultrie, knowing the position to be un leaving the inference that it had been taken by the popul ceded that it would require a con by piece. This fort, moreover, commands the entire cit and harbor of Charleston, as well as Fort Moultrie itsel movement. It was rumored that a train was laid by Majo Anderson before leaving the Fort to blow it up; but the was not believed. Captain Foster, with a small force

low of the two forts and the harbor of Charleston, that with Fort Sumpter in the hands of the United States troops, Fort Moustrie would be a very weak point for the upon a history & the defences, let us give a brief sket of the secession movement in South Carolina, which led to her separation from the Union, and which has brought

The state of South Carolina, for over thirty years, has been the victim of periodical attacks of disunion, and federal army and navy at his back, and Clay with his acute statesmanship, settled the nullification difficulty in 1832, she has threatened to secede. So often, indeed, has she raised the cry of "wolf" that when the wolf really came, on the 20th of this mouth, and the seces-sion ordinance was framed, people hardly believed it, and many even now doubt that she means to stay out of the confederacy. But unfortunately the augravating abolition agitation in the North, which for the last quarter of a century has been growing in in-tensity and violence, forced many other Southern States into sympathy with the pioneer of secession, until the feeling of mistrust in the safety of Southern rights and property so pervaded the whole South, that an absolute severance from the fanatical North seemed to be the only know that it exists at the present hour to an extent alarming to contemplate, and to point to the history of the anti-slavery societies for thirty years back, and to the language of black republican leaders and newspapers for the preceding four or five years, to indicate the cause.

The election of Lincoln in November was immediately followed by an intense excitement all through the South and presented to South Carolina and the extremists of all the Southern States strong grounds for secession from the on her own motion, or by an understanding with the ul-tra men of the Gulf and cotton States, took the initiative

and proclaimed her intention to secede.

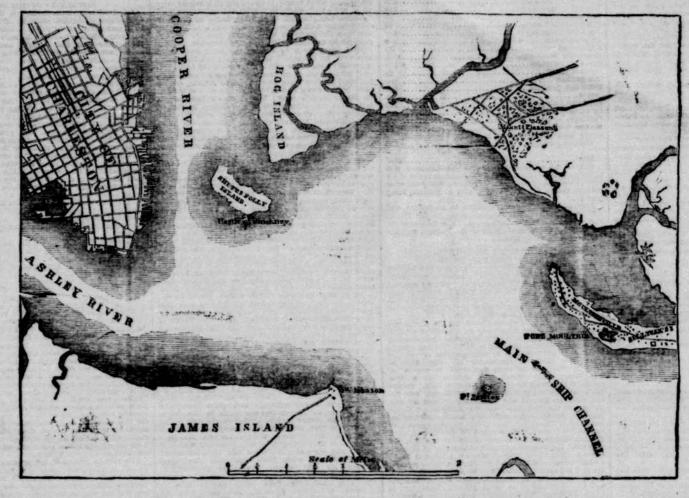
The Legislature of the State called a popular Convention to take action upon the question. The people, alive to the emergency, at once elected delegates, and the 17th of liveember was fixed upon for the Convention to meet at Columbia, the State capital. The Convention met on that day, and with considerable solemnity proceeded to business, opening the session with prayer. The eyes not only of their own constituents, but of the whole country, were upon the members of that representative body, and every one felt that the future course of nearly every Southern State was to be determined by their action. After several ballots for President, General D. P. Jamison was elected, and upon taking the chair addressed the Convention in these words:—

son was elected, and upon taking the chair addressed the Convention in these words:—

GENTIAMEN OF THE CONVENTOR—When I say that I have no words to express the gratification which your confidence has afferded me, I only say precisely what I mean. There is no honor I esteem more highly than to sign the coducage of secession, as a member of this body; but I will regard it as the greatest honor of my life to sign it a your presiding officer. We have entered on a great we k, and God, who holds in his hands the destines of rattom, only knows what may be the results. That it may lead to fire hence and glory of South Carolina is my most for any proxy. Just that aid our State! I am too

PLAN AND THEW OF THE FORTS AND HARBOR OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.

Plan of the Harbor of Charleston, Showing the Forts, City and Suburbs.



View from the Sea of the Harbor of Charleston, Showing Forts Sumpter and Moultrie.



ere received with military honors. Proceed Convention was resumed. Important debates, upon the future course of the State after an independent position was assumed, occupied that day and the next—all of which have been published in the Hanaid. Therefore it is unnecessary to refer to them in detail here. Committees were appointed on Relations with the Staveholding States of North America, on Foreign Relations, on Commercial Relations, on the Constitution of the State.

A resolution was also passed to ascertain what proper-ty the United States claims the ownership of in South Carolina, how it was acquired, and whether the claim can e enforced after South Carolina shall have seceded. The esolution also calls for information as to the value of such other property as the United States may possess, and the value of the share to which South Carolina would e entitled on an equitable division.

On the following day the vital question of secession from he confederacy of the United States came up, and on the 20th day of December the Convention unanimously voted in favor of withdrawing from the Union. The following rdinance was adopted by the votes of the entire 169 embers, and its passage was welcomed with tremen dons applance.

dous applicate.

AN ORDANACE TO DESOLVE THE UNION SETWENT HE STATE OF ROTTH CAROLINA AND OTHER STATES UNITED WITH HER UNION THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF ANELUCA.

We, the people of South Carolina, in Convention assembled, do declare and ordaine, and it is hereby declared and ordaine, and opted by us in convention, on the fild day of May, in the year of our Lord 1788, whereby the constitution of the United States of America was ratified, and also all acts and parts of acts of the General Assembly of this State ratifying amendments of the said constitution, are hereby repealed, and that the Union now subsisting between South Carolina and other States, under the name of the United States of America sheeby discolved.

en cities it was received with immense enthusiasm. Gun were fired, processions turned out, fires were lighted and the utmost furor was exhibited. In Charleston, on the offewing pight, there was a grand procession of Minute Men, and several thousand citizens, strangers, fremen and military were in line, with music, banners, transand mittary were in sinc, with moise, canners, transparencies and reflecters. The procession formed in front of Secession Hall and proceeded to the Mills House to gerenade Covernor Pickens, and subsequently to Wm. Is. Porcher, President of the Senate; General Simmons, Speaker of the House; General Jamison, President of the Convention, and Mayor Macbeth, who acknowledged their thanks and compliments. The Palmetto flag was borne in front of the procession. The city was alive with excitement, and a number of residences, newspaper establishments and other public buildings were il-

The effect produced in Washington was not very de nonstrative, but it was nevertheless intense. The dele-cation from South Carolina retired from their seats in congress and bade adieu to their friends. Meantime the Congress and bade adieu to their friends. Meantime the Convention continued, and still continues, its sessions. It sadopted the Declaration of Immediate Causes which Induced and Justified the Secession of South Carolina from the Union. Waiving the repetition of the causes in the past, she declares to the remaining States and nations of the world the immediate causes which led to the act. The declaration refers to the causes which led to the separation from England, and the declaration of the colonies that they are free and independent States. In pursuance of this declaration, thirteen States proceeded to exercise separate sovereignty. Subsequently they empursuance of this declaration, thirteen States proceeded to exercise separate sovereignty. Subsequently they en-tered into a league by the Articles of Confederation, but retaining their sovereignty. Under this declaration the war of the Revolution was fought, at the close of which England acknowledged them free, sovereign and independent States. Subsequently the Union was formed, limited to the words of the grant. The declaration declares that many of the States have violated the compact in letter and spirit, which consequently absolves the rest from the obligations of the Union. It refers to the States which violated the fourth article of the constitution, and says none of them have compiled with the stipulations of the constitution; consequently South Carolina is absolved from

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PROVISIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CANDINAL

Whereas, It is due to our late confederates, known as the United States of America, as also the citigens of South Carolina engaged in commerce, that no abrupt or sudden change be made in the rate of duties on imports into the State; and whereas, it is not desired by this State to secure advantages in trade to her own ports above those of any of the slaveholding States, her late confederates in the said Union; and whereas, this codinance, for considerations indicated, is designed to be provisional merely, therefore, we, the people of Sonta Carolina, in convention assembled, do declare, ordain, and it is hereby declared and ordained.

First—That all citizens of this State who, at the date of the ordinance of secession, were holding office connected with the customs, under the general government of the United States, within the limits of South Carolina, be and they are hereby appointed to hold, under the government of this State, exclusively, without any further connection whatever with the federal government of the United States, the same offices they now fill, until otherwise directed, and that they receive the same pay and emoluments for their services.

Second—That until this Convention or the General Assembly shall otherwise provide, the Governor shall appoint to all vacancies which may occur in such offices.

Third—That until it is otherwise previded by this Convention or the General Assembly, the revenue collection and navigation laws of the States, saving that no duties shall be collected upon imports from the States forming the late federal Union, known as the United States of America, nor upon the tonnage of vessels owned in whole or in part by the citizens of said States, saving and excepting the act of Congress adopted on the 3d day of March, 1857, entitled "An act authorizing the deposit of the papers of foreign vessels with the consuls of their respective nations," which said act is hereby declared to be of no force within the limits of

any of them, shall be in the name of the State of South Carolina.

Sinth—All meneys hereafter collected by any efficers aforesaid shall, after deducting the sums necessary for the compensation of the officers and other expenses, he paid into the Treasury of the State of South Carolina, for the use of said State, subject to the order of this Convention, or of the General Assembly.

Seventh—The officers aforesaid shall retain in their bands all property of the United States in their possession, custody or control, subject to the disposal of the State, who will account for the same upon a final settlement with the government of the United States.

Done at Charleston the 26th day of December, in the year of our Lord 1860.

B. F. Jamison, President.

B. F. Akriuca, Clerk.

Governor Pickens immediately issued a proclamation

proclaiming to the world that South Carolina is and has a right to be a separate, sovereign, free and independent peace, negotiate treaties, leagues or covenants, and do all acts whatever that rightly appertain to a free and in-

The Legislature changed the name of the "Com mittee on Federal Relations" to that of the "Com-mittee on Foreign Relations," thus declaring the United States a foreign Power. Three Commissioners— Mesers. Barnwell, Adams and Orr—were appointed by the Convention to proceed to Washington and wait on the President of the United States on the part of South Carolina, for the conveyance of the mails, the recog-nition of her independence, the surrender of the fortifi-cations, the establishment of treaties of amity and commerce, and other important measures. These gentlemen arrived in Washington on Wednesday night, and were to have had an interview with Mr. Buchanan yesterday.

Thus South Carolina has second from the Union. The other States which are expected to follow her example

Florida. Alabama....

A special session of the Legislatures each of Virginia and Tennessee, in reference

meet on the 7th of January, and of Texas on the That of !

THE DEFENCES OF CHARLESTON-TELE-GRAPHIC DESPATCHES-BUMORS AND CANARDS.

THE NEWS YESTERDAY.

stigmatized in the most discourteous language by the re publican press. Even in the Cabinet, the executive policy with regard to Fort Moultrie found a dissen-tient in the person of Gen. Cass. In his mes age Mr. Buwhereas it was intended not to provoke collision. But when the news of the secession of South Carolina reach-ed Washington special messengers were at once despatched to Major Anderson and to the Collector and Postmaster at Charleston, the purport of their mission, of course being confined to the President's own bosom. But a control was at once set affoat that orders were sent to Anderson to surrender. The city, therefore, was startled

FORT MOCLTRIE RVACUATED—THE GUNS SPIEND AND THE FORT IN FLAMES—GREAT EXCITS-MENT, ETC., ETC. CHARLESTON, Dec. 27, 1860. Fort Moultrie was evacuated last night.
Previous to the evacuated last night.
Previous to the evacuation the guns were spike J.
The fort is now being demolished by fire.
Only four soldiers were left in charge.
The troops have all been conveyed to Fort Sumpter.
Intense excitement prevails.
The Convention is in secret session.

excitement spread throughout the city. A few hours later, however, the following despatches arrived, which comewhat altered the complexion of the first alarming

SECOND DESPATCH.

It is only the gun carriages that are on fre a Fort

Moultrie.

The cannon are spiked, and it is reported that a trait is laid to blow up the fort.

This last report is doubted.

The excitement and indignation of the recopic are increasing.

Counterwood Proc. 27—12:00 P. M. CRARISSTON, Dec. 27—12:50 P. M.

Major Anderson states that he evacuat d F rt Moultrie
in order to allay the discussion about hat pest, and at
the same time strengthen his own position.

Crarisston P. M.

Crarisston Dec. 27—1 P. M.

Capt. Foster, with a small force, still rem ins at F Moultrie.

Several of the city military companies have been ordered out.

A collision is not improbable.

It is highly probable that Major Anderson's views were to evacuate an untenable position, and repair with his men to a fort which there is some chance of defending, as may be seen from the following descrip-

The harbor of Charleston is defended by four forte namely-Fort Moultrie, situated on Sullivan's Island, at namety—rort Montrie, situated on Suffician's Island, at the right entrance to the harbor; Fort Sumpter, which stands on a small island a little to the left of the main ship channel, and almost in a central point of the harbor; Caetle Pinckney, on Shute's Fails Island, a good deal pearer to the city; and Fort Johnson, on an angle between forts Pinckney and Sumpter. The accompanying map and plan of the harbor and city of Charleston—for which we are indebted to the kindness of the proprietors of Harper's Weekly-will give our renders an excellent idea of the relative value of the defences. FORT MOULTRIN.

This fortification is an enclosed water battery, having a front on the south or water side of about 300 feet, and a depth of about 240 feet. It is built with callent and reentering angles on all sides, but until the works now ere were undertaken the south wall could have been easily scaled, owing to the necumulation of sand from the beach. Some improvement, however, has been recently effected in this respect. The outer and inner walls are of brick, capped with stone, and filled in with earth, making a solid wall fifteen or sixteen feet in thickness. The work now in progress consists in cleaning the write chairmerence, and creeting a glacis, claring up

fort has also been strengthened by a bastionette, to also been better secured, and a trap door two feet square cut in the door for ingress and egress. At this time the height of the wall, from the bottom of the ditch to the top of the parapet, is twenty feet. The ditch is from deep. The nature of the soil would not seem to admit of this depth being increased, quicksand having been reached in many places. The work on the south side is nearly finished. The counterscarp is substantially built of plank, and spread with turf. The glacis is also finished. It is ed of sand, and covered with layers of loans and of sections of plank nailed to aprights sunk in the sand, and crossing each other at right angles—making squares and crossing each other. The purpose of the glacis, which is an inclined place, is to expose an attacking party to the fire of the guns, which are so placed as to sweep it from the crest of the countercarp to the edge of the beach. On the north side, all the wooden gun cases have been placed close together on the receparts, apparantly for the purpose of securing it against an escalade, but possibly as a screen for a battery of heavy guns. A good many men are engaged in clearing the ramparia of turf and earth, for the purpose of putting down a very ugly looking arrangement, which consists of strips of plank four inches wide, one inch and a helf thick, and six or eight feet long, sharpened at the point, and nailed down, so as to project about three feet horizontally from the top of the walls. A noticeable fact in the bastionettes to which we have above alluded is the hoste in which one of them has been built. The one completed is formed of solid masoury. In constructing the other, however, a framework of plank has been substituted. Against the framework of pank has been substituted. Against the inside of shis wooden outwork loose bricks have been placed. Both bastioneties are armed with a small carronade, and a howitzer pointed laterally so as to command the whole intervening most by a cross fire.

The parrison which has just vacated the fort is commune R. Anderson, United States Army. The other officers are Captain Abner Doubleday, Captain Seymour. Licutenant T. Talbot, Licutenant J. C. Davis, Licutenant N. J. Hall, all of the First regiment artillery; Captain J. G. Foster and Lieutenant G. W. Snyder, of the Engineer corps; Assistant Surgeon S. W. Crawford, of the Medical The force under these gentlemen consists of two companies of artillery; the companies, however, are not full—the two comprising only about seventy men, in-cluding the band, or about fifty-five rank and file in all.

works in the United States. It is built on an artificial island, immediately within the mouth of Charleston bay between Fort Meulirie and the site of old Fort Johnson. of Revolutionary memory, and equidistant from those points about three-fourths of one mile. The ship channel ading from the sea to the city of Charleston is between forts Sumptor and Mountrie, and is entirely commanded within half range by them. Between forts Sumpter and Johnson the water is very shallow, only available for vessels of very light draft, and then only at high water. The artificial island on which Fort Sumpter is built is con-structed of the refuse from the granite quarries of New England. Ten years was consumed in its completion, at a cost of half a million of dellars. The fortification is of a pentagonal form, built of solid brick masonry. The walks e fifty feet in height, and from eight to ten feet in thickness, and are pierced for three tiers of guns, besides having necessary loopholes for mucketry, and designed for an armament of one hundred and forty pieces of ordnance of all calibres. Two tary parlance, en barbele-the lower tier for forty-two pounder Paixhan guns; the second tier for eight and tet inch Columbiads, for throwing solid or hollow shot, and the upper tier for mortare and twenty-four pound guns. The fall armament of the fort, however, had not arrived there when Major Anderson took possession, and it is fair, therefore, to suppose all the available ordnance will be equitably distributed throughout as judiciously as pos-sible. It is thought that with the present armament of the fort the guns would be capable of throwing six thousand pounds of shot at each discharge. In a defensive of strategical point of view Fort Sumpter radiates its fire through all the channels from the sea approach to Charlesample to repel any attack from that quarter. The fort is sufficiently out of range from a land artiflery attack, so that all apprehensions for breaching it may be put at rest. The maximum range of the gune from Sampler three miles, but for seconds dring, suit

tich an ettreking force mist crawl through, one man

and it against five hundred.
The fart at the present time, has officers' quarters and

any a track of a local nature. Fort Sur and Dundas for two years: more than defeated the Allies at sebastopol; and any of them can have more artillery than Hemarsond, which required a land force of 14,000 men to capture. Yet the greater part of this military strength is contributed by Fort Sumpter, the others being merely auxiliaries.

CASTLE PINCKNEY is keated on the southern extremity of a narrow slip of marsh land, which extends in a northerly direction to Hos Island Channel. To the harbor side the so called castle presents a circular front. It has never been considered of much consequence as a fortress, althproximity to the city would give it importance if procuns mounted on the parapet; the majority of them are of powder, shot and shell. At present there is no garr men, who have charge of the barbor light. Some thirty erty day laborers are employed repairing the cist and putting the place generally in or

SKETCH OF MAJOR ANDERSON.

ber, 1805, and is now, therefore, in his 60th year. In his eye dark and intelligent; his nose prominent and wel formed A stranger would read in his air and appearance determination and an exaction of what was due to him. In intercourse he is very courteous, and his rich is always agreeable and gentlemanly, firm and dig On the 1st day of July, 1821, he entered the Military 1825, taking a high position in a large class, con Huger, Col. Francis Taylor, Col. Charles F. Smith. artiflery, July 1, 1825, and he was subsequently pro and between 1835 and 1837 was Assistant Instru pearing date April 2, 1838. July 7, 1838, he be captaincy in his regi army of General Scott, and took part in th by General Rankhead, the command of the batteries. This duty be performed with signal skill and gallantry and he continued with the army until its triumphal entry into the city of Mexico, in September following. During the operations in the valley of Mexico, he was attached of General Worth's division. In the attack on El M dei Rey, on the 8th of September, where he was wou del Rey, on the 8th of September, where he was wounded very severely, his conduct was the theme of especial praise on the part of his superior officers. Captain Burke, his immediate commander, in his despatch of September 9, says:—"Captain Robert Anderson (act-ing field officer) behaved with great heroism on this occa-sion. Even after receiving a severe and painful wound, he continued at the head of the column, regardless of pain and self-preservation, and setting a handsome example to and self-preservation, and setting a handsome example to his men, of coolness, energy and courage." General Gar-land speaks of him as being, with "some few others, the adds that "Brevet Major Buchanan, Fourth infantry; Cap tain Anderson, Third artillery, and Lieut. Sedgwick, Sc cond artillery, appear to have been particularly distin-guished for their gallant defence of the captured works." In addition to this testimony to his bearing on that occa-sion we have that of General Worth, who particularly directed the attention of the Commander in Chief to the part he had taken in the action. "For gallant an meriterious conduct in the battle of Molino del Rey" from September 8, 1847. October 5, 1867, he was promoted to the position of Major of the First artillery, which

This is certainly a good record for a soldier, and proves that a judicious selection was made of the commander who is to defend the government forts and property, at Charleston. The last service of Major Anderson, o his taking command of Fort Moultrie, was as a member of the commission ordered last summer by Congress inquire into the manner of instruction at the West Point already been laid before Congress

## THE NEWS IN WASHINGTON.

Special Meetings of the Cabinet--- Indignation of the South Carolina Commissioners.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27, 1860.

Up to eight o'clock neither the President nor Secretary of War have received any information from Charleston. The following despatch was sent to the President late this afternoon by the South Carolina Commissioners, they having just received it:-

Great excitement on account of removal of garrison from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sampter. Removed on Wednes-day evening, and at night, under false pretence. Captain Foster with small guard left in Fort Moultrie to complete dismantling. They are now burning gun carriages. Guns spiked, and report of intention to blow up Fort Moultrie. Citizens generally regard this as declaration of war unless

The President immediately convened his Cabinet in extraordinary session, and did not adjourn until after five o'clock. They meet again at eight o'clock, and the President expects by that time to receive intelligence from Charleston. He cannot make a move or take action until he receives official information.

The instructions to Major Anderson were clear and ox sileit. He was not to set, except on the defensive. He had no right to remove his garrison or change his position

CONTINUED ON EIGHTH PAGE !